

**December 9, 2003**  
**Technical Review Subcommittee (TRS)**  
**of the Kelly Restoration Advisory Board (RAB)**  
**Meeting Minutes**

**Meeting Attendees**

Dr. Gene Lené, RAB Community Representative  
Mr. Sam Murrah, RAB Community Representative  
Mr. Ruben Peña, RAB Community Co-Chair  
Mr. George Rice, RAB Community Representative  
Mr. Nazarite Perez, RAB Community Representative  
Mr. Armando Quintanilla, RAB Community Alternate  
Mr. William Ryan, Air Force Real Property Agency (AFRPA)  
Mr. Doug Karas, AFRPA  
Ms. Larisa Dawkins, AFRPA  
Ms. Linda Kauffman, San Antonio Metropolitan Health District (SAMHD)  
Mr. Gary Miller, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)  
Ms. Abigail Power, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ)  
Mr. Mark Weeger, TCEQ  
Ms. Ellie Wehne, TCEQ  
Mr. Michael Tennant, Texas Department of Health (TDH)  
Mr. Kirk Wiles, TDH  
Ms. Jerry Ward, TDH  
Ms. Robyn Thompson, Booz Allen Hamilton (Booz Allen)  
Mr. Scott Courtney, Booz Allen  
Ms. Megan Mabee, Booz Allen  
Ms. Susan Hook, Booz Allen  
Ms. Brittany Watts, Smith and Associates  
Dr. David Smith, Smith and Associates (Facilitator)

The meeting began at 6:34 p.m.

**Welcome and Introductions**

**Dr. David Smith**

Mr. Ruben Peña convened the meeting in the absence of the TRS chair, Mr. Buddy Pletz. Dr. Smith introduced himself as the meeting facilitator and welcomed all RAB members and meeting attendees. He conducted a review of the meeting agenda and pointed out that Mr. Scott Courtney would be presenting the Building 361 update for Mr. Ryan, and the item was moved up on the agenda as Mr. Courtney had to leave early. The approval of the meeting minutes was also moved to the beginning of the meeting agenda, due to a decision made at the November Executive Committee meeting.

Mr. Peña made a motion to approve the minutes from the October 2003 TRS meeting. Dr. Gene Lené and Mr. Sam Murrah seconded the motion. The meeting minutes were approved.

## **Building 361 Update**

### **Mr. Scott Courtney**

Mr. Courtney explained that his presentation was added to the agenda in response to Mr. Armando Quintanilla's questions about the groundwater data during the November TRS meeting presentation on Building 361. Mr. Courtney presented a PowerPoint briefing and pointed out the difference between the shallow groundwater and Edwards Aquifer data available. He explained the San Antonio Water System (SAWS) and Bexar Metropolitan Water District (BMWD) data, stating that the Edwards Aquifer samples are collected at the points of entry into the distribution system. In contrast, he stated that shallow groundwater samples are collected from monitoring wells as a grab sample, and added that the procedure for gathering water quality data is to sample the water first, and then to dry out the sample well and test the remaining sediment. He also clarified that the water sampling data was collected during the Building 326 investigation, not the Building 361 investigation, as some members had thought.

While difficult to compare, concentrations in both aquifers are very low and do not present a risk to public health.

Mr. Sam Murrah asked Mr. Courtney to clarify the term "soil concentrations" used to describe environmental conditions at Buildings 326 and 361. Mr. Courtney said that "concentrations" in this case means contaminant levels. Mr. George Rice asked if 4.7 is an average number for SAWS data. Mr. Courtney said he was not sure, and explained that the data is from an annual report and there are no descriptions on the Web site of how the data was reported. He added that the information is available to the public, and encouraged those with questions to see him after the meeting for the contact information.

Mr. Rice stated that the quality of the shallow groundwater from Edwards Aquifer used to be very good. He said many San Antonio households received their water from this source. Mr. Courtney said he was sure Mr. Rice was right, but due to urban sprawl, the water quality has been significantly degraded.

## **Texas Department of Health (TDH) Report of Leon Creek Fish Study**

### **Mr. Michael Tennant**

Mr. Michael Tennant introduced himself as a TDH Seafood Safety Division (SSD) representative, and introduced his colleagues, Mr. Kirk Wiles and Ms. Jerry Ward from the Austin SSD and the TDH Department of Toxicology. Mr. Tennant pointed out three sample sites in Leon Creek where 22 fish were collected. He explained that all metals found there were detected below human health concern levels. Mr. Murrah asked him to clarify whether polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) were detected at levels to warrant concern about human health risks. Mr. Tennant confirmed that they were; at Site 3, there were three of four species of fish containing PCBs above the human health concern level.

Mr. Tennant explained that they look at cancer risks and systemic risks associated with their sample findings. He said that at Site 2, next to Lackland Air Force Base property, there is a hazard quotient for PCBs associated with systemic risk concerns. He said no one should consume fish from Site 2, and that TDH issued a fish consumption advisory to inform the community of this. He said TDH should collect samples of additional fish species and continue to monitor fish from Leon Creek.

Mr. Mark Weegar asked if carp suckers and gar are species of fish that are typically consumed. Mr. Tennant replied that these species are not commonly consumed, but might be consumed in lower income families. Ms. Ward added that some large-mouthed bass sampled tested positive for PCBs, which raised concerns. She added that though carp and gar are not often consumed, large-mouthed bass typically are, and this was a reason to alert the public that contaminant levels were of concern.

Mr. George Rice asked why there are different contamination concentrations at different sites. Mr. Tennant replied that fish do not always move freely, as they get concentrated in certain areas when the water levels are low, and this may affect the contaminant levels found in the fish. Mr. Murrah stated that when the creek runs properly, the fish travel upstream. Mr. Tennant agreed with him. Mr. Nazarite Perez mentioned that a few months ago at another TRS meeting, someone said there was no risk posed by eating the fish. Ms. Abbi Power clarified this statement by saying that Mr. Ed Roberson, the Lackland Environmental Chief, came to that meeting and spoke about the area of the creek on Lackland property. She stated that the primary site of concern is located on Lackland AFB, and has very limited access. Mr. Tennant reiterated that the advisory included areas outside of Lackland AFB, and fish should not be consumed from the areas of the creek from Highway 90 to Military Drive.

Mr. Quintanilla asked what is being done to remove the PCBs on the Air Force property. Mr. Tennant replied that this question would be better posed to the appropriate Air Force personnel. Mr. Quintanilla stated he recommends removing the PCBs. Mr. Tennant replied that it is very hard to remove PCBs, as they have a long lifespan. Ms. Powers asked if there are other bodies of water contaminated by PCBs. Mr. Tennant said that Mountain Creek Lake near Austin has had a consumption ban since 1996. He said there was a slight decline in the PCB levels since that time; however, there is still a ban. Ms. Ward said that at one time it was legal to dump substances in these waters. It is often hard to pinpoint the source of the PCBs, she explained, and the contamination is therefore hard to remediate. Ms. Powers asked if there were other bodies of water besides military sites contaminated with PCBs. Ms. Ward stated that there were multiple bodies of water in the state of Texas contaminated by PCBs.

Mr. Rice requested a copy of the TDH presentation. Mr. Quintanilla asked if TDH is done with the cleanup efforts. Mr. Kirk Wiles said that the Air Force is the agency responsible for environmental cleanup of the areas in question.

Mr. Peña asked how many signs had been posted in the advisory area, and if they were bilingual. Mr. Tennant explained that the Air Force is responsible for posting the signs and translating them into Spanish on Lackland AFB. Mr. Peña asked if TDH had any idea of the fish population. Mr. Tennant replied that there are ample fish species and fish populations, but that the sample size collected for this study was very small. Mr. Peña asked why there is not a barrier to prohibit people from fishing under the Highway 90 bridge. He added that some people in this area do not read English, or read at all.

Mr. Peña said he has seen people on nice days out fishing in these areas. He asked if they ate the fish they caught, would they be at risk. Mr. Tennant said they may be if they consumed contaminated fish over many years. He added that the advisory is meant to stop exposures for people in the area. He asked that anyone who sees or hears of fishing in this area send the

information to TDH. Ms. Powers asked if there is a difference between an advisory and a ban. Mr. Tennant replied that unlike a ban, an advisory cannot legally keep people from fishing.

Mr. Ryan asked who is responsible for putting the signage on the land that does not belong to the Air Force. No one at the meeting could provide an answer. Ms. Linda Kaufman of SAMHD said she will revisit this issue with health department. Mr. Quintanilla stated that he knows families that fish under the bridge near Military Drive and asked TDH to contact them.

Mr. Tennant asked everyone to please spread the word that fish from the creek adjacent to the golf course have been found to have high levels of PCBs. Mr. Weeger reiterated that the fish of most concern were on Air Force property adjacent to the golf course, and people cannot enter that property without appropriate permission.

Mr. Ryan asked Mr. Tennant if he had been invited to speak to the Community Council on Restoration (CCR) at Lackland. Mr. Tennant replied that he had not. Mr. Quintanilla then asked if the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) was aware of the advisory. Mr. Tennant replied that ATSDR was familiar with the issue, as the agency works closely with TDH. Mr. Weeger added that the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) is also conducting an ecological risk assessment.

Mr. Quintanilla asked that all RAB members receive a copy of the TDH presentation. Mr. Rice made the motion, Mr. Perez seconded.

### **ATSDR Process Update**

#### **Ms. Larisa Dawkins**

Ms. Dawkins said that she understood that TRS members were concerned with the status of the ATSDR past air emissions report. She explained that the ATSDR has submitted the document for an external review process. Ms. Dawkins stated that the Southwest Workers Union (SWU) requested that all publications be translated into Spanish, which will prolong the process of releasing the document. She said the comments from the community comment period (60-90 days) will be addressed by ATSDR and appended to the final report, and then the document will go through another review process to ensure the Spanish translation is accurate. She added that the report should be ready some time next year.

Mr. Karas asked if Mr. Quintanilla had additional information from ATSDR about the release of the report. Mr. Quintanilla replied that he heard the document was to be released in spring 2004. Ms. Dawkins stated that ATSDR works hard to ensure the accuracy of the report before its release.

### **Liquid Incinerator Report**

#### **Mr. William Ryan**

Mr. Ryan stated that there was a motion at the last meeting for a briefing on one of the reports submitted to the TRS library. He explained that the liquid incinerator report was a compilation of numerous studies. He handed out a map showing the location of Site OT-1, which housed a liquid waste incinerator used from 1977-82. Mr. Ryan stated that site investigations conducted from 1990-99 revealed concentrations of semivolatile organics.

Mr. Quintanilla asked if emissions data was presented to ATSDR. Mr. Ryan said he would confirm that appropriate emissions data was reported; if it was not reported, he would send it to

ATSDR. Mr. Quintanilla added that he wants to know about the 43 unpermitted sites with emissions. Mr. Ryan asked if he had a title of the report where he got that information. Mr. Quintanilla said he had it written in his notes that it had been documented in a previous report, but could not recall the name of the report. Mr. Ryan stated that the Air Force has provided ATSDR with all of the data they have requested to date on this subject.

### **Technical Assistance for Public Participation (TAPP) Funding Status Report**

#### **Mr. Doug Karas**

Mr. Karas gave an overview of the TAPP program. He outlined what TAPP grants can and cannot be used for. He gave a summary of previous and current Kelly TAPP projects. He said waivers can be requested for additional funding, but must be approved by the Air Force. He stated that there is approximately \$9,000 remaining for Kelly TAPP funding. He added that if the TRS wants to request a waiver for additional funding, they need to identify specific projects requiring further TAPP review. Mr. Weeger asked what the timeline is for getting the waiver request. Mr. Karas replied that the sooner the project is identified, the sooner the money is received. Mr. Quintanilla asked about technical training. Mr. Karas said that the TRS needs to identify the type of training and discuss it with the RAB members. Mr. Quintanilla asked if they could use the money to send RAB members to The University of Arizona to hear a Permeable Reactive Barrier (PRB) update from experts. Mr. Karas said the policy is to bring experts to San Antonio to speak with the whole RAB. Mr. Weeger said that the Instructional Technology Resource Center (ITRC) gave training to RAB members a year and a half ago. Mr. Quintanilla said he wants a technology overview given to the RAB, to explain how new technologies might expedite the cleanup process. Mr. Weeger said that ITRC does interactive training, and RAB members should look on the ITRC Web site to identify training courses that might be of interest. Mr. Quintanilla requested that the identification of technical training become an action item. Mr. Ryan added that ITRC has a schedule for Web-based training, and would look into the Air Force bringing the information to the next RAB meeting. Mr. Rice said he wants updates on monitored natural attenuation, and how it works. Mr. Karas asked if Mr. Rice would be willing to give a presentation to the RAB on it. Mr. Rice said it may take a while to prepare, but he will consider it.

Mr. Weeger stated that members could look at the EPA Web site for information on Superfund sites. He stated that the best use of RAB funds is at the onset of a project when they are deciding on a technology. Mr. Karas said he can provide information on projects coming up for next year, and what documents will be presented. Mr. Ryan added that the Air Force provides lists each month to the RAB of the environmental cleanup documents generated. Mr. Weeger said that TCEQ just received the 2004 Annual Work Plan from the Air force. He added that this would be a good place to start identifying other documents to review.

### **Administrative**

#### **BRAC Cleanup Team (BCT) Update**

##### **William Ryan**

There was no BCT this month.

### **Spill Summary Report**

#### **Brittany Watts**

There were no spills to report.

## **Documents to TRS/RAB**

### **Brittany Watts**

There was one document submitted:

- *241B Closure Report-Fire Control Training Area FC-2, Zone 2, Former KAFB November 2003*

## **Action Items from previous meeting**

### **Brittany Watts**

All actions items from the previous meeting were completed as requested.

## **TRS Action Items from current meeting**

- Provide copies of TDH Leon Creek fishing advisory report to RAB members
- Kelly to verify that Site OT-1 Air Emissions information has been reported to ATSDR
- Provide listing of ITRC technical training available for consideration as RAB/TRS training.
- Provide natural attenuation outcome studies/status report (EPA/ITRC)
- Provide copies of 2004 Annual Work Plan to RAB members for the development of future TAPP funding requests.

## **Additional Comments**

The next RAB meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 20, 2004, at 6:30 p.m., at the Kennedy High School Auditorium. New RAB members will be appointed during this meeting.

The next TRS meeting is scheduled for February 10, 2004, at 6:30 p.m., at the Environmental Health and Wellness Center.

Dr. Smith encouraged everyone to pass along RAB applications to people they know.

Mr. Quintanilla stated that the TRS should review all documents submitted to the TRS library.

Ms. Watts explained that as requested, the executive summaries from each report are placed in the supplemental packets for the TRS to review.

The meeting adjourned at 8:27 p.m.